These include Anti Material Rifle, Hand Held Thermal Imager, Hand Held IOE, Battlefield Surveillance Radar (MR), Battlefield Surveillance Radar(SR), all of which will be delivered in periods commencing from December, 1999. 327.5Km roads are also being surfaced at different places in this sector.

Recruitment in Army from Punjab

2146. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army recruitment was done during the Kargil War recently;

(b) if so, whether the same exercise was undertaken in Punjab also;

(c) if so, the number of persons recruited from that State; and

(d) the number of persons recruited from the sikh community?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Only planned normal recruitment was carried out all over India during the Kargil conflict; there was no special recruitment. As part of the normal recruitment process, a total of 2135 Jawans were recruited from Punjab State during the period 1.4.99 to 31.10.99, of whom 1580 are Sikhs.

Underground posts and platforms on the border

†2147. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistanis making some underground posts and raised platforms on the border;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these raised platforms are being made for espionage; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The matter has been taken up locally by the BSF with the Pakistan rangers.

News-item "Dark Dealers still Seal Defence Deals"

2148. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Pioneer dated November 21, 1999 captioned, "Dark Dealers still seal Defence Deals";

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.